

Bonn is offered 'deal on hostages'

BONN (AP) — Two West German hostages held in Beirut could be released by the end of the month if the Bonn government agrees to turn down a U.S. request for the extradition of a suspected TWA hijacker, the Bild newspaper reported Sunday. The mass-circulation Bild said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has informed the Bonn government of the offer, made by the kidnappers of the two West German businessmen. Mr. Assad told officials here the Bonn must reject the U.S. extradition request and put hijack suspect Mohammad Ali Hamadeh and his brother, Ali Abbas Hamadeh, on trial for illegal possession of explosives only, according to the Bild report. If Bonn agrees to those terms, West German hostages Alfred Cordes and Rudolf Schmidt could be released by the end of the month, the newspaper added, without citing its sources. Juergen Finsen, a Bonn government spokesman, declined comment on the Bild report. Mr. Cordes and Mr. Schmidt, both West German businessmen, were abducted in Beirut in January, shortly after Mohammed Ali Hamadeh was arrested while arriving at the Frankfurt airport.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times Foundation

Volume 12 Number 3425

AMMAN, MONDAY MARCH 16, 1987, RAJAB 16 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Khatib meets new JPA officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib, accompanied by Press and Publications Department Director Musa Al Kelani visited on Sunday the Jordan Press Association (JPA). They met with the newly-elected association president, Mr. Rakan Al Majali, and the council's nine members. Mr. Khatib congratulated the JPA council and voiced his ministry's readiness to support journalists and the media (JPA council holds first meeting, page 3).

Italian authorities release Hindawi

GENOA (R) — Jordanian student Awni Hindawi, arrested last weekend for the second time in 10-months on charges of political conspiracy, has been released again for lack of evidence, judicial sources said Sunday. He is a cousin of Nizar Hindawi, who was sentenced in London last year to 45 years in jail for attempting to blow up an Israeli airliner by placing a bomb in the suitcase of his pregnant Irish girlfriend as she was about to board the plane. Awni Hindawi, 26, was first arrested in Genoa in June last year on charges of belonging to an armed band but was released in February for lack of evidence. He was re-arrested eight days ago after the public prosecutor's office alleged he was part of a guerrilla organisation. The sources said a review tribunal ordered his release again after ruling that there were insufficient grounds for the new arrest.

Kuwait warns of mines

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Sunday warned its citizens of possible danger from mines in its territorial waters. A Defence Ministry official told reporters the mines had recently been found along the Kuwaiti coast. He declined to say where they came from. Kuwait is close to the frontlines of the war between Iran and Iraq.

Assad receives Qadhafi message

DAMASCUS (AP) — Libya's new foreign minister flew to Damascus on Saturday and delivered a letter to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SAN-A) reported. Jad Ali Al Azzouz Al Talhi, who two weeks ago was named to Libya's top diplomatic post, met with Mr. Assad at his Mahajreen presidential palace upon his arrival from Tripoli, SAN-A said.

Libya protests Saudi honour to Crowe

TRIPOLI (AP) — Libya has protested to Saudi Arabia over the recent visit and decoration of a top American military official, the official news agency JANA reported Saturday. JANA said Saudi Arabia's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Libyan Foreign Ministry in Tripoli and handed a note of protest. It criticised that country's dealings with the United States, which JANA accused of "conducting a policy of state terrorism against the Arab states and aggression on their peoples." Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Saudi Arabia during the first week of March.

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Death threat to hostage could strain Iran-Syria relations

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A pro-Iranian underground group said it would announce the execution of a French kidnap hostage on Monday in a move one Lebanese newspaper suggested could strain relations between Syria and Iran.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation in Lebanon said it had put television technician Jean-Louis Normandin on trial after a 48-hour deadline for France to explain statements by President Francois Mitterrand.

The group, which also says it holds two Americans, said it would announce Mr. Normandin's execution on Monday.

A political source in west Beirut doubted the killing would take place, however.

He said it would be a bold challenge to Syria, which had placed its prestige and troops behind last month's security plan for west Beirut. He suggested the threat was intended to place pressure on France in financial and diplomatic negotiations with Tehran.

The Revolutionary Justice served its death threat in a two-page handwritten Arabic statement delivered to An Nahar with a polaroid photograph of Mr. Normandin at 8 p.m. Saturday. This suggested that the new deadline

to kill him is the same hour on Monday.

The statement came a few hours after the expiry of a previous approximate deadline to kill him midday Saturday unless the French government clarified a statement made last Tuesday by President Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand appeared in that statement to reject the possibility of a pardon for Anis Nacache, imprisoned for the attempted assassination in Paris of former Iranian Premier Shahpour Bakhtiar.

Later on Sunday, Lebanon's most influential Shi'ite cleric appealed for the life of Normandin.

"You cannot confront the policy of a president by executing a kidnapped victim," said Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, reported spiritual guide of Hizbullah.

"This behaviour does not serve our causes," Sheikh Fadlallah said.

Normandin, 35, a lighting engineer with France's Antenne-2 television, was kidnapped March 8, 1986. Revolutionary Justice claimed responsibility.

The independent An Nahar newspaper quoted a Western diplomatic source as saying Mr. Normandin's execution could mark the start of a "decoupling" between Syria and Iran.

Damascus has been a major supporter of Iran in its 6-1/2-year-old war with Iraq.

The two countries had apparently successfully patched up strains caused by the killing of at least 18 militants of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) by Syrian troops during their crackdown on militia guerillas in Beirut last month.

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Israel forged British passports for Mossad and later apologised to London

LONDON (AP) — Britain on Sunday accused Israel of forging British passports which a London newspaper reported were found in a West German telephone booth and intended for use by undercover agents of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

The Foreign Office said it summoned Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Avner last October and "protested very strongly about the misuse by the Israeli authorities of forged British passports and sought an assurance it would not happen again."

"We subsequently got an expression of regret from the Israeli authorities and assurances that steps had been taken to prevent it occurring again," a Foreign Office spokesman told AP.

"On the basis of these assurances we regard the matter as closed," added the spokesman, who according to British practice declined to be identified.

Earlier, the Sunday Times reported that eight forged British passports intended for Mossad secret service hit-men to attack opponents abroad ... were discovered by chance last summer in a

Eitan says Israeli leaders knew he was running Pollard

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli spy master Rafi Eitan says that despite their denials, his superiors knew he was running the Jonathan Pollard espionage operation in the United States, the Hadashot newspaper reported Sunday.

Eitan, appointed chairman of a large state-owned firm after the scandal broke with the arrest of the U.S. navy intelligence analyst in late 1985, was also quoted as telling politicians he would not be made a scapegoat by the government.

"All my activities, including the Pollard affair, were known to my superiors," Eitan said, according to Hadashot. "I am not willing to sacrifice my cover up for the knowledge and responsibility of others."

Pollard, 32, was sentenced on March 4 to life imprisonment by a Washington court for passing hundreds of top-secret American documents to Israel.

Eitan was head of the defence ministry's scientific liaison office, or "Lelekm," a now-disbanded intelligence unit that recruited and ran Pollard. Israeli leaders said "Lelekm" acted behind their backs.

"To the best of my knowledge ... no member of the cabinet approved this case of espionage," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in a speech Saturday night.

Eitan has previously refused to

'Iran has missiles at Strait of Hormuz'

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. intelligence authorities say Iran has installed large missiles near the Strait of Hormuz at the southern end of the Gulf, increasing the threat to oil shipping, the New York Times reported in Sunday editions.

The missile system appears to be of a Chinese design known as HY-2, which is a version of Soviet-designed missiles known in the West as SS-N-2 or "STYX," the Times said, citing American intelligence sources.

The missiles, reported to have been installed at two places along the Strait of Hormuz, have a range of 40 to 80 kilometres, enough to reach into shipping lanes through the strait.

It said none of the missiles has been fired.

U.S. officials claim China is selling arms to Iran; China denies it is selling the weapons.

Iran has used smaller missiles in past attacks on shipping, the newspaper said.

It said the new missiles had been deployed at two sites and quoted a naval analyst as saying they could be used to sink a supertanker and block the Strait of Hormuz.

The newspaper, in its Sunday

Seminar focuses on Islam's treatment of non-Muslims and political participation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seminar on "The Modern Islamic Re-Awakening and the Problems of the Arab Nation" continued its sessions for the second day here on Sunday and the discussions focused on forms of political participation of contemporary Islamic movements.

The seminar, organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), aims at seeking a formula which defines Islamic movement's attitude towards Arab political issues and understanding the factors which led to the shaping of the modern Islamic political thought and movements Sunday's sessions in which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan took an active part, focused on modern Islamic movements' stands on non-Muslim minorities and forms of political participation.

Fahim Al Howeidi, from the Al Ahram Centre for Strategic Studies in Cairo, presented a paper entitled "The Modern Islamic Re-Awakening — Citizenship and Equality," in which he called on the Islamic movement to endorse justice as the basis for relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Dr. Howeidi traced the attitudes adopted by the different Islamic movements since the foundation of the Muslim Brotherhood by Hassan Al Banna in Egypt at the turn of this century towards non-Muslims. He differentiated between the original teachings and principles of the Holy Koran and its interpretations by each movement. Dr. Howeidi pointed out that the interpretation of the Koran by each movement was shaped by the political and socio-economic conditions that led to its formation.

Dr. Howeidi's analysis strongly deplored sectarianism and religious bias.

Dr. Howeidi said Islamic thought was divided into two main



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses a symposium on the Islamic reawakening at the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

schools after the death of Banna; the first was a continuation of Banna's "moderate and tolerant" thinking. This trend, said Dr. Howeidi, is led by Dr. Yousef Al Qardawi, who chaired Sunday's morning session of the Amman seminar, and Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazzali. The second trend, Dr. Howeidi said, is an extremist one which calls for the isolation of non-Muslims and their exclusion from decision-making and running of state affairs. According to Dr. Howeidi, this trend is represented by Said Qutb and Said Hawi, who even go as far as to call for the expulsion of non-Muslims from the state unless they strike a "fair agreement" with the Islamic system.

Dr. Howeidi criticised the Iranian revolution in this context. He pointed out that the Iranian constitution endorsed the participation of Jews, Christians and the Zaradash sect in parliament but Tehran's revolutionary leaders never put the concept into practice. He noted that no Sunni Muslim had ever risen to an important position in the Islamic system in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

Dr. Howeidi concluded that there was a need for the Islamic movement to seriously and thoroughly tackle the issue of non-Muslims in a modern way aimed

at "regulating the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims on the basis of justice."

The second paper on the same issue was presented by Zeinab Al Ghazzali. The paper advocated strict adherence to the traditional teachings and interpretations of Islam governing the Muslim-non-Muslim relationship. It called for regulating the relationship through al jezieh, a special tax to be levied from non-Muslims in an Islamic state, and non-Muslims' respect for Islamic codes of conduct.

In return, said Ms. Ghazzali, non-Muslims living in an Islamic country are entitled to be protected against foreign aggression as well as internal oppression and to be given guarantees for the protection of their honour, religious practices, the right to work and even assume government posts as well as the right to social security.

During the second session of the seminar on Monday, discussions focused on "Islam and Political Participation." The session, chaired by Dr. Saud Al Sabah, a prominent Kuwaiti poet and scholar, studied a working paper submitted by Kamel Al Sharif, a former minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

In the paper, Dr. Sharif argued that Islam endorsed and accepted

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had publicly disclosed.

The Post, quoting unnamed sources, said neither Mr. Weinberger nor Mr. Shultz raised objections to the arms sales during private meetings with the president.

Mr. Reagan's address marked the first time he has said he personally made a mistake in pursuing the arms sales, which the Post said were part of attempts to free Americans held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

The scandal is being investigated by two congressional committees and an independent counsel.

When the scandal broke, Mr. Reagan, who had taken a tough public stand against countries allegedly supporting terrorism, including Iran, first denied his administration had any dealings with Tehran.

As details of the sales became public in the following weeks, Mr. Reagan conceded there had been arms sales but insisted they were part of a bid to open ties

with "moderate Iranians" who might take power when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dies.

After the Tower report came out, Mr. Reagan admitted in a nationally televised speech his policy had degenerated into an arms-for-hostages deal.

In the opposition Democratic Party's response to the president's address, Senator Jim Sasser called on Mr. Reagan "to listen more closely to the American people" on Central American policy.

"They don't want a chaotic policy that could lead ultimately to American boys losing their lives for no reason in the jungles of Central America," said Sen. Sasser, a member of the Democratic Party and leading opponent of contra aid.

He said Americans want no Soviet military bases in Nicaragua, an opportunity for democracy to flourish and most of all they want peace for the suffering people of Central America.

Khashoggi: Tower report was wrong on arms funds, page 2

Reagan admits he was wrong in Iran deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan has for the first time admitted he was wrong to sell arms to Iran in an initiative which four months ago plunged him into the worst crisis of his six-year-old presidency.

He made the admission on Saturday night in his weekly radio address while defending the role played by Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in the affair.

"In the case of the Iranian arms sale matter, both Secretary Shultz and Secretary Weinberger advised me strongly not to pursue the initiative," Mr. Reagan said. "I weighed their advice but decided in the end the initiative was worth the risk and went forward."

"As we now know, it turned out they were right and I was wrong. But they discharged their responsibilities as my advisers and as my subordinates," he said.

Since the scandal broke last November, Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weinberger have said they told Mr. Reagan of their opposition to the deal and were not fully in

formed of the effort, carried out by National Security Council (NSC) members.

They also said they were unaware of the diversion of millions of dollars in profits from the arms sales to the Nicaraguan contra rebels, who have been fighting the leftist Sandinista government for six years.

In a report released two weeks ago, a commission headed by former Senator John Tower said Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weinberger had been wrong to ignore the initiative.

Given its importance, the commission's report said, the secretaries should have done more than simply voice opposition and take steps to protect their departments.

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had publicly disclosed.

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Egypt rebuilds church, mosque to prevent pre-election unrest

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian authorities, seeking to prevent sectarian unrest in the run-up to elections next month, are rebuilding a mosque and repairing a church damaged in communal incidents in the city of Sohag, officials said Sunday.

The gesture of reconciliation was part of official efforts to calm religious sentiments, easily aroused by rumours of extremist action.

The mosque and church were damaged during trouble late last month in the River Nile cities of Sohag, some 500 kilometres south of Cairo, and Beni Suef.

Security forces arrested 19 Muslim fundamentalists after demonstrations over the burning of a mosque in a fire which police said was sparked by an electrical short-circuit.

Before the trouble died down, protesters set fire to a church, tried to destroy another and burned several shops and businesses belonging to Copts, the indigenous Christian minority in mainly-Muslim Egypt.

The government sent the Waqfs (religious affairs) Minister, Mohammad Ali Mahgoub, to Sohag and Beni Suef last week with a group of Muslim clergy from Cairo's ancient Al Azhar

University to contain sectarian incidents.

They met local Christian and Muslim leaders, who agreed that the Al Kotb Mosque and Church of the Virgin Mary would be rebuilt.

Sohag's security chief, Maj.-Gen. Samir Saied, told Reuters Sunday that work had started on the rebuilding and the situation in the city was calm.

Saeed confirmed a press report that a pet shop was burned down in an unexplained fire Saturday. But he denied the opposition Al Wafd newspaper's account, which said that a curfew had been clamped on Sohag because of the blaze.

"Students are going to classes regularly and business is as usual," he said.

The Al Wafd report was symptomatic of unease in Egypt over the possibility of communal incidents during campaigning for parliamentary elections on April 6, when political tempers are high.

Sohag and the city of Assuit, further north, are centres of activity by Muslim fundamentalists who want Islamic Sharia Law to be made the sole basis — rather than a basis, as at present — of Egyptian law.

They also have a higher proportion of Coptic Christians in their populations than the estimated 10 per cent national average — over five million in a 51 million total.

The last major Muslim-Christian clashes in Egypt were in 1981 in Cairo and Assuit. Islamic militancy has been a regular backdrop to politics since Muslim extremists shot dead President Anwar Sadat the same year.

In Alexandria, on the Mediterranean, a court Saturday acquitted 13 people charged with trying to burn down nightclubs and video shops.

The 13 were indicted last November and charged with setting fire to a public bar and a religious shrine, and setting up an organisation aimed at overthrowing the government "by force and violence."

The prosecution had demanded life imprisonment for the group.

The paper said after the judge

acquitted the men, five students, a agronomist, three workers, a senior army officer and three unidentified fugitives, the defendants chanted religious slogans and songs.

Seven other Muslim fundamentalists remain detained pending trial in a similar case after being accused last September of calling for a holy war to replace the government.

The prosecution has also asked for prison terms of up to life at hard labour for them.

Sectarian conflicts, topics once considered taboo, are being openly discussed in government-owned and opposition newspapers.

Ahmed Bahaaeddin, a communist in the semi-official Al Ahram daily, quoted a letter from a leading Copt as saying only seven of the ruling National Democratic Party's 448 candidates in the elections were Copts.

A three-party alliance under the Labour Party name — Labour, the Liberal Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, the latter tolerated by the government despite a long-standing ban — is promoting Islam in one campaign slogan.

Iranian opposition reports capture of base

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As Iran's imperial armed forces crumpled eight years ago, an American four-star general was asked by Washington if he would be willing to go back to Tehran and conduct a military takeover, "because its objective was ambiguous and because it was preeminently a political and not a military task."

In Mission to Tehran, published by Harper and Row, Gen. Robert E. Huyser, now retired from the U.S. Air Force, said the question was asked by Charles Duncan, the Jimmy Carter administration's under-secretary of defence, during a telephone conversation.

Gen. Huyser, then deputy commander of the U.S. European Command, was at his headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany, having returned from a not-so-secret mission to Iran just a week earlier.

On the day of Mr. Duncan's call, on Feb. 11, 1979, the U.S.-supported civilian government of Shahpur Bakhtiar had just fallen to the Islamic revolutionaries of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, top Iranian military leaders were being assassinated or arrested and military barracks burned and looted.

Gen. Huyser said he replied that he only would consider returning to beleaguered Tehran if he were given unlimited funds, 10 to 12 handpicked U.S. generals, 10,000 of the best American troops and "undivided national support."

Those listening at the other end of the line in Washington included Ebligine Brzezinski, Mr. Carter's national security adviser.

"There was a rather long pause so I answered the question for them," Gen. Huyser recalls in the book. "The answer was obvious — it was not feasible."

Gen. Huyser, because of his past contacts with Iran's military leaders, had been sent to Tehran by Mr. Carter in early January, 1979, as the fatally ill and disgraced Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was preparing, at U.S. urging, to leave the country to give the Bakhtiar government a

chance to establish itself.

As he states in the book's introduction, Gen. Alexander Haig, Gen. Huyser's boss and NATO commander at the time, opposed his deputy's mission

"because its objective was ambiguous and because it was preeminently a political and not a military task."

In retrospect, Gen. Huyser describes his mission as "one that started with desperation and disunity and ended in disaster." The conclusion has a familiar ring in the aftermath of other U.S. political debacles involving Iran, including last year's secret mission of Robert McFarlane, President Ronald Reagan's former national security adviser.

Once in Tehran, Gen. Huyser soon found that he and U.S. Ambassador William Sullivan were working at cross-purposes and that the Carter administration founded in its avowed support for Bakhtiar, an old political opponent of the Shah picked by the monarch in the futile hope of appeasing Khomeini's supporters.

As Gen. Huyser understood his instructions, he was to encourage — through advice only — Iran's military chiefs to remain in Iran after the Shah's departure and give their support to the Bakhtiar government. Meanwhile, they were expected to make contingency plans for a military coup, if that became necessary to head off seizure of the government by anti-American Islamic militants.

In retrospect, Gen. Huyser writes that there was disagreement within the Carter cabinet as to what his instructions actually meant.

"Brzezinski," Gen. Huyser

said, "wanted it to convey to the Iranian military a green light to stage a military coup, and considered that it did so. President Carter intended to convey such a meaning only as a last resort."

At the time of Gen. Huyser's mission speculation was rife that a military coup was imminent.

The American general's book goes a long way to explain why it

U.S. general's book describes alleged coup plan in Tehran

never came off.

While Gen. Huyser, in his reports back to Washington, invariably gave an upbeat view of the cohesiveness of the American-equipped 450,000 man Imperial Armed Forces, his descriptions of his meetings with the Iranian staff indicated it was in chaos.

He found them in a "totally helpless state" and "thinking of their own skins" once the Shah departed. Used to the absolute rule of the Shah and torn by professional jealousies, Gen. Huyser notes, the Iranian general staff "had a tendency to lean on me rather than to produce strong initiatives of their own."

One of the initiatives that did emerge under Gen. Huyser's prodding was a plan for a military take-over of Iran's pro-Khomeini customs service to end huge snarls at the Turkish border of trucks carrying vital food supplies and to cut off illegal arms shipments and sound tapes of Khomeini sermons.

Gen. Huyser said he was shocked to learn that, before his departure for Egypt, the Shah had told his generals, "listen to him (Huyser), trust him and obey him. He is your general."

The statement indicates the Shah may have entertained some lingering hope that, as happened in his 1953 crisis and flight, the United States would use his absence to engineer a coup.

But Gen. Huyser makes the point that his instructions specifically barred him from becoming a mover and shaker in the free-wheeling style of Kermit Roosevelt, the CIA man who orchestrated the 1953 coup.

Gen. Huyser, obviously stung by later criticism that he had misled the White House by sending back overly optimistic assessments of Iran's military, makes the telling points that the "principle blame for the fall of the constitutional government in Iran" lies with the Shah and that "the mission was a 'no-win' situation by an administration that was carrying out 'conflicting policies simultaneously.'

2 cameleers in Bahrain en route to Tanjier

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Two Qatari cameleers were in Bahrain Sunday on their way to Tanjier, an eight-month trek in the footsteps of the 14th century Arab explorer Ibn Battuta.

Saleh and Ayed Al Shammary were greeted here by Bahrain's Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The pair set out from Muscat, Oman, 32 days ago with four camels, crossing the 26-kilometre King Fahd Causeway from Saudi Arabia into wind-swept Bahrain late Saturday.

Their safari to Morocco will take them through desolate regions, ranging from the Sinai peninsula to the North African desert.

They commenced on Feb. 10 in Muscat with the Atlantic seaport of Tangier as their destination, because it was the birthplace of Ibn Battuta.

The two camel riders said their objective is to learn about young people in each of the countries they visit, apart from "enjoying the adventure."

Peking, Aden sign accords

PEKING (AP) — China and South Yemen signed six agreements on economic, technical and cultural cooperation Sunday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Zheng Tuotian, Chinese minister of foreign relations and trade, and Abdulla Mohammad Othman, South Yemen's minister of industry, commerce and supply,

signed five of the documents. Officials of the Chinese Culture Ministry and South Yemen's Planning Ministry signed a separate culture agreement. Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and South Yemen's Prime Minister, Yasin Shehad Noman, attended the signing ceremony, Xinhua said.

Khashoggi: Tower report was wrong on arms funds

MADRID (R) — Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi multi-millionaire who financed U.S. arms sales to Iran, was quoted Sunday as saying he was still owed \$10 million from the deal and had cash problems but was not bankrupt.

In an interview with the Spanish daily *El País*, Mr. Khashoggi said the United States' Tower Commission report on the sales was wrong to say he had received \$22 million for the weapons.

"(The Tower report) contains many errors on the subject of money as far as I am concerned. They say I paid \$10 million around February 1986 and had \$10 million in cash," he added.

Mr. Khashoggi said the affair had caused him financial problems because his bank accounts in the United States and Switzerland had been frozen.

Khashoggi's company loses \$500m

"North and his Lake Resources owe me \$10 million which I had advanced to the Americans," Mr. Khashoggi said.

"I am the only one who can make North talk, force him to tell the truth about what has happened to this money ... I don't care whether or not he goes to jail ... what matters to me is getting my money back," he added.

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El País said the interview, published in Spanish, was conducted in Mr. Khashoggi's home in Monte Carlo last Friday.

The Tower Commission, headed by former Senator John Tower, was appointed by President Reagan to investigate the arms sales to Iran and the subsequent reported diversion of funds to "contra" fighting the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Its report, sharply critical of the White House, was published just over two weeks ago.

Mr. Khashoggi said the money owed to him was in a Swiss bank account in the name of Marbella on Spain's Costa Del Sol had gone unpaid for a week, but said he had settled the matter with help from his bank.

He admitted that the financial problems had meant that staff at his luxury home in Marbella on Spain's Costa Del Sol had gone unpaid for a week, but said he had settled the matter with help from his bank.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

University marks 25th anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan on Sunday marked its silver jubilee (25th anniversary). University President Abdul Salam Al Majali hoisted a special silver jubilee flag on the university campus heralding the start of celebrations to mark this occasion. A Royal Decree was issued in 1962 establishing the University of Jordan as the first institution for higher education in Jordan. The university now comprises 14 faculties in the fields of human sciences as well as applied and pure sciences.

New JPA board holds first session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association's (JPA) new board held its first session on Sunday under the chairmanship of newly-elected president Rakan Al Majali and posts were allocated to new board members. Fayed Hamdan (editor-in-chief of Al Ittihad weekly) was elected JPA vice president, Ahmad Zghairi (Petra) was elected secretary, Fakhri Al Nimri (Sawt Al Shabab) was elected treasurer, Yousef Al Absi (Al Ra'i) assistant secretary and Ahmad Al Hisban (Al Dusour) was elected assistant treasurer. A committee for health insurance and a disciplinary council were formed during the meeting. Mr. Majali won the JPA presidency against his only rival Ibrahim Sakkijha during elections held Friday. Mr. Majali succeeds Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed, the chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation. Mr. Kayed served as JPA president for two consecutive terms.

Tunisian transport team due today

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Transport is due in Amman Monday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. The delegation will hold talks with Ministry of Transport officials on Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in transport affairs. Its members will also tour a number of installations owned by the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company and will study the company's experience in land transport.

Jordan to attend scouts seminar

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an Arab scouts seminar which is scheduled to open in Cairo today with the participation of 14 Arab states. The week-long seminar will discuss means of developing scout programmes to cope with modern advancements and to achieve the goals of the Arab scout movement.

RJ ceases publication of newsletter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian has ceased publication of its weekly newsletter which had been issued by the airline every Thursday for the past 11 years. The national carrier will, however, issue a new format publication at a later date to continue the airline's links between its staff and with the aviation community, according to a Royal Jordanian spokesman.

Razzaz grabs attention with lively, stylised exhibition of his paintings

By Meg Abu Hanan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition of Razzaz's paintings, 'Perspectives on Amman' this month, is the first in Amman to feature his work.

Good smaller oils and watercolours line the walls, but it is the large and important works that catch and hold the attention.

Perhaps best of these is Razzaz's painting of Amman, which Razzaz calls "The Mother" who "embraced him" for three years.

Over two metres in length it rears up the wall like one of Amman's seven mountains. It's not a panoramic view of the city but rather a birds and worms' eye view all in one — the upper half of the painting showing the small cuboid houses with their multiplicity of openings as one would see them from the street in the valley below, while the lower half of the painting looks down on a patchwork of roofs full of aerials and water tanks.

Linking the two shifted perspectives across an open space are ladders up and down which Razzaz's small stylised figures crawl, some clutching the strings that stop the brightly coloured kites from flying heavenwards for ever. The different levels of the painting indicate the many different levels of symbols — the strange hieroglyphics loaded with meaning that have become an almost universal code among artists coming from that area — of perfectly drawn figures and faces and of subtle colours, textures and compositions, Razzaz's work fulfils our expectations of what these artists — considered by many to be the best in the Arab World — are capable of doing.

Although young, Razzaz comes from a family of famous painters and it is obviously this background that has helped him find his roots and enabled him to develop his art from them so quickly. Razzaz, thus, has his own direction as well as his innate Egyptian-ness, but at the same time there is a lively variety in his

work that makes this exhibition a feast for the mind as well as for the eyes.

Perspectives on Amman

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ART REVIEW

Finally the figures also appear in Razzaz's small oils and watercolours. Even more simplified they achieve a rare naivety, a child-like innocence that is threatened and denied, in the bold colours that wash across the paper.

Nestling happily among all these figures are portraits — two striking versions of his uncle done in heavy lines of black against streaks of dashing vermillion — and abstracts as well as other paintings that combine all these elements, like Razzaz's moving piece on the Sudan. This is an arresting work in which all Razzaz's many abilities combine — his eye for subtle shades which are here brutally shattered by the stunning scarlet of the banner that flaps across the scene, his way with composition and textures — the folds of the fabric in the centre of the piece, indicated by careful rendering are given almost tangible form by the thick impasto layers of paint that fall away beneath it, his sense of detail and of the impact of certain symbols on the unconscious. It is a piece that encompasses Razzaz's full versatility and virtuosity and one that gives a hint of the excellent work still to come from this talented young artist.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday holds talks with Syrian Minister of Industry Ab Tarabulsi

Rifai confers with Syrian minister of industry

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday conferred with visiting Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabulsi on means of promoting Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in industry and economic affairs.

The meeting at the Prime Ministry was attended by Minister of Trade and Industry Raji Muasher.

The one-day meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian Industry Company (JSIC) ended here late Saturday evening. The assembly was co-chaired by Mr. Tarabulsi and Dr. Muasher and discussed means and ways to solve the problems facing the JSIC as well as its present financial and administrative situation.

The company is in charge of operating a number of joint projects in the two countries and its main schemes are the white cement company based in the south of Jordan and the Damascus

based factory for manufacturing carpets.

According to a JSIC report approved on Saturday, the cement company, whose commercial operations started in August 1985 with a daily production of 320 tonnes, has presently achieved excellent quality production, registering two per cent higher than the British standard for cement quality. The report added that production output during both the company's experimental and commercial operations reached 47,058 tonnes, out of which, 36,344 tonnes were marketed in both markets.

The meetings between Dr. Muasher and Mr. Tarabulsi, according to well informed sources, focused on alleviating problems facing Jordanian-Syrian trade exchanges, including the issue of hard currency exchanges between the two countries.

Hindawi meets ISESCO chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thounan Hindawi conferred in his office Sunday with Mr. Abdul Hadi Bou Taleb, director general of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), who is on a visit to Jordan. They discussed preparations for holding a general ISESCO conference in Amman in the coming year and inviting ministers of education in Islamic countries.

Also discussed at the meeting was cooperation between ISESCO and Jordan and unifying educational curricula in Islamic nations.

The ISESCO official later met with Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad for discussions on cooperation between the Islamic organisation and the Ministry of Higher Education. They also discussed preparations for the ISESCO conference.

University researches agricultural potential of semi-arid regions

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Experimenting with agricultural production in areas where rainfall does not exceed 200 millimetres annually could provide an answer to stemming the spread of desertification in Jordan and the Near East.

A research site 50 kilometres southeast of Amman has for the past year and half been conducting studies on the optimum agricultural production on lands considered as semi-arid and prone to desertification, said Dr. Mahmud Al Dweiri, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

"Our objective is to develop a comprehensive package needed to cope with desertification problem in Jordan and areas with similar environmental conditions," said Dr. Dweiri.

Addressing a group of journalists visiting the site, Dr. Dweiri said: "There are other sites experimenting with production in the desert, but none have the conditions of this site with less than 200mm of rainfall and extreme temperatures, either very high or very low."

This pioneer project in Jordan is part of the University of Jordan's special action programme: fight against hunger. "The Faculty of Agriculture at the university found this project appropriate since most of the countries in this region are low rainfall areas suffering from desertification," said Dr. Dweiri.

"We are testing simple techniques applicable to simple farms," said Dr. Theeb Y. Oweis, irrigation and water consultant for the research site. "Once an experiment proves to be successful, we will invite farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture so that they can, if they wish, adopt the idea," said Dr. Oweis.

Dr. Oweis, from the Faculty of Agriculture, is one of the 18 faculty members participating in the research activities. Five research assistants specialising in agricultural science and four graduate students awarded scholarships to conduct research in agriculture are also part of them.

EC grant

A grant for the project has been provided by the European Community (EC). The 750,000 EC units (ECU) grant forms 33 per cent of the total cost, and the rest of the expense are covered by contributions from the University of Jordan. Mr. Romano Lamini, head of the EC Commission in Jordan said: "The grant was made to the project to improve agricultural production and to enhance self-reliance in semi-arid areas." The Jordanian government has shown its support by offering the 200 hectares of land for experimentation.

The reporters were shown several of the experiment, on a field trip arranged by the Faculty of Agriculture to see the progress

of the research site. Dr. Awai Taimeh, the technical director of the project and a professor from the Faculty of Agriculture told the reporters "there are eight major projects with several experiments within each." The projects fall under four types of management: land, plant, water, and livestock based on the site selection and collection of information on soil, water and climate.

Ground water

Research has shown that ground water may not be sufficient for agriculture in this area by the year 2000 since a major portion is allocated for human and industrial uses. Therefore, the option left is to establish and develop the best means for utilising surface water, and upgrading water use efficiency for the adopted practices. Due to seasonal fluctuations in climate in this zone, project activities were selected to suit such conditions.

"For a good crop, 600mm of water is needed. With water harvesting we can collect the rainfall into a smaller area to obtain this amount," said Dr. Taimeh. Using plastic or paraffin to cover different areas of land, or just leaving some plots of land uncovered, the researchers are trying to find the optimum area and material which allows for the greatest amount of water to run off towards target areas or into barrels.

"We use techniques and experiences of other countries, but slightly modified to our own conditions and in order to make use of our own local materials," said Dr. Oweis. "For example, we have our own measurement devices, and the plastic and paraffin is made locally."

Presently six hectares are being irrigated and under experimentation. The researchers are trying to determine the consumption use for selected crops, to establish some practical techniques for reducing evaporation in water storage and to select the best field irrigation methods.

Earth dams

Three earth dams were constructed by the University of Jordan. "They were designed to be as efficient as possible and to get the maximum capacity at the lowest costs," said Dr. Oweis. Between JD 2,000-2,500 was the cost of each dam which holds about 60,000 cubic metres of water. A concrete dam to hold the same amount of water would have cost JD 30,000, added Dr. Oweis.

Research has shown that soil type in this zone is found on 35 per cent of the total area in Jordan. These areas were not included in development plans over the last decades. Furthermore, this type of area is being damaged by various degradation and desertification processes. The research site is trying to determine the best land use, agri-

culture potential and production of different crops applicable to these conditions. Plants are being tested for their suitability in different soil areas, and their response under optimum management is being studied, continued Dr. Oweis.

As well as maintaining soil productivity, the researchers strive to improve soil fertility. Different mixes and concentrations of organic and inorganic sources of plant nutrients are mixed with the soil, said Dr. Butros Hattar, a professor in the Faculty of Agriculture.

According to Dr. Taimeh, "badly depleted soil is a problem for wheat production." He showed reporters the areas designated for wheat, and said that dealing with this problem calls for daily irrigation during germination. Also different levels of nitrogen and fertilisers are added, he said.

Run-off problem

All the professors noted the problem of run-off water as being the biggest stumbling block. Fertile ground reduces the rate of run-off and deep percolation and by being able to estimate the water requirement of crops, there is less chance of wasted water, they said. In addition, the researchers will continue to test different tillage practices and means to reduce transpiration and soil water evaporation, and to increase water holding capacity of soils.

An experiment where no irrigation had been used was also shown to the reporters, to identify crop species which can establish themselves under natural habitat. The plot included cereals, trees, and forage crops. Forty two dumplings were planted last April with a survival rate of 70 per cent," said Dr. Oweis. The project aims to study the natural vegetation for its feed potential and soil conservation, and to select suitable crops by evaluating the different crop species for agronomic, economic and other quality traits under different soil moisture conditions.

Dr. Dweiri told the journalists, "we are looking at soils and plants, but we have in mind to look at livestock management as well, since we want an integrated approach." He also said that the project expected to face problems but would keep working depending on the support it receives.

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RJ to take delivery of first Airbus today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today takes delivery of its first six A310-300 Airbus passenger jets which will fly into the Queen Alia International Airport, according to an official announcement issued by Royal Jordanian airline.

ian said that a special ceremony will be held at the Queen Alia International Airport to celebrate the occasion.

Flights to India

In another development, the Royal Jordanian announced Saturday that it will open a route to New Delhi as of the beginning of May and that it plans to open a second route to link Amman with Calcutta. A spokesman for Royal Jordanian said that the national air carrier will operate one flight a week to each destination.

On Feb. 11, Jordan and India signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in air transport. The memorandum provides for Royal Jordanian to operate weekly flights to New Delhi and to Calcutta. The agreement also calls for the two countries to hold a meeting in the near future to exchange information regarding regular air transport operations between the two countries.

Sudanese economic delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Trade and Supply Omar Al Mubarak Abu Zaid arrived in Amman on Sunday at the head of an economic and trade delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will hold talks with officials from the private and public sectors on bolstering bilateral relations and cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Mr. Abu Zaid said in a statement upon arrival that during his visit, Jordan and Sudan will sign an agreement intended to promote bilateral trade. Agreement on this subject was reached in principle and initial steps towards promoting cooperation were

formulated between the two sides during a visit to Sudan in January by a Jordanian economic delegation. Mr. Abu Zaid added. He said that the two countries intend to exchange goods worth \$100 million.

Mr. Abu Zaid spoke about areas where economic and trade cooperation could be achieved between Sudan and Jordan and he expressed the hope that both countries would achieve further progress.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Al Saqqaf and senior government officials were at hand to greet the visitors upon their arrival at the airport.

Letter said to link Bush to North

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Fuller, in a telephone interview, said when he asked Mr. Bush about the letter, the vice president could not recall Dr. Castejon.

The vice president's only action was to sign a response drafted by a member of his staff to Dr. Castejon," Mr. Fuller said.

The original letter from Dr. Castejon was written in Spanish, which Mr. Bush does not read, and the vice president "was in no way familiar with the specific request contained in the letter or the nature of the request," Mr. Fuller said.

However, he said Mr. Bush was aware, from a staff prepared outline of the letter, that Dr. Castejon was seeking help for his effort to support the rebels.

Asked what action Mr. Bush expected from Col. North, Mr.

BMW launches 735i in Jordan

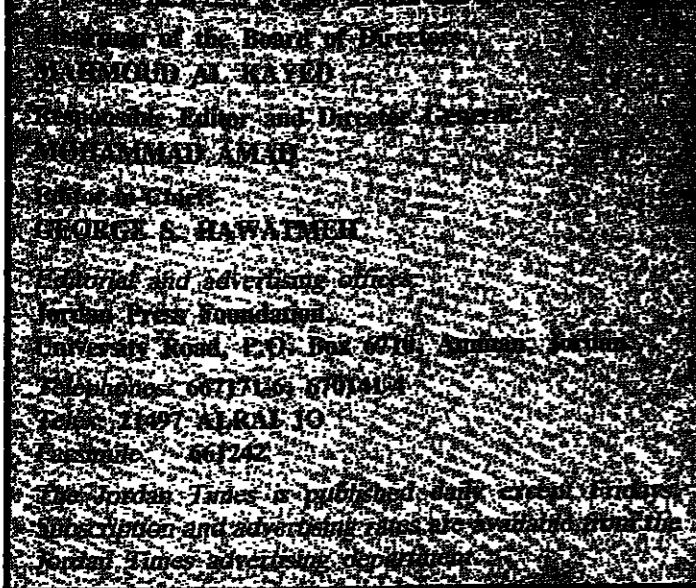
AMMAN — The first top of the line 1987 "Bayerisch Motoren Werke," better known by its initials BMW, was introduced to the Jordanian car market on Sunday. The BMW agency in Amman organised a press conference on the occasion during which a spokesman for the Munich-based plant outlined the vehicle's qualities.

The BMW 735i, the spokesman said, was designed to compete with top of the line luxury cars of the British-made Jaguar and the German-made Mercedes-Benz.

It took around seven years of development and planning from the initial design concept to the first car rolling off the production line at the beginning of the year,

the spokesman said, adding that more than 1.5 billion marks have been poured into development and research every year.

Jordan's new course



Moment of truth

THE U.S. Congress will likely have to face a difficult political choice in the coming months over its South African anti-apartheid law. The passage of the anti-apartheid law was a major victory for Democratic congressmen who succeeded in overriding a presidential veto on a foreign policy issue for the first time since President Reagan took office. One of the provisions of the law authorises Congress to stop U.S. military aid to countries violating a ban on providing arms to South Africa.

And guess who reportedly tops the list of countries providing arms to South Africa — Israel, the largest recipient of American military aid. According to a recent report in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, Israel leads a U.S. State Department list of countries which supply arms to Pretoria, a list which is to be submitted to Congress on April 1. At the same time, Israel is asking the United States for \$3 billion in aid.

When asked about the compatibility of Israel's arms sales to South Africa and the anti-apartheid law passed by Congress, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, on his recent trip to the United States, said he had no intention of halting arms supplies to South Africa, U.S. law or no U.S. law. And he sounded confident that the U.S. would not cut off aid to Israel on this count. This open challenge did not receive much attention by Congress, but congressmen will not be able to look the other way when they receive the State Department list. And it will be a politically difficult issue to face. Most members of Congress who pushed the anti-apartheid bill are from the Democratic Party; the same Democratic Party that receives strong support from most Jewish-Americans. The Jewish population is concentrated in key Democratic states like New York and Massachusetts. And the clout of the pro-Israel lobby in Congress is well-known.

So the question arises: Will a Democratically-controlled Congress implement its own law and stand by its moral principles embodied in the anti-apartheid law? Or will it bow to political pressure from Jewish-Americans and their strong lobby, and make an "exception" for Israel? For the U.S. Congress, the moment of truth is at hand.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: On the right course

IN a wide-ranging interview telecast on Jordan Television Prime Minister Zaid Rifai clarified a number of points related to the government's measures aimed at stimulating the national economy. It is clear from the prime minister's statement and the figures he released to the viewers that the country is back on the right course for a healthy economy. It was a positive gesture on the part of the prime minister to take part in an open dialogue with the editors of the two main newspapers in the country, and we hope that other ministers and key officials will follow the example of Mr. Rifai in meeting the press and offering full explanation of the government's policies and its objectives. The frank statements of the prime minister have provided clarification on several domestic issues of concern to the Jordanian public. He spoke about the election law which he said is not suspended or postponed and will be put into force once new elections take place in the Kingdom. He also spoke about municipal elections in the Greater Amman Region and touched on the question of taxes and fees for travellers leaving the country, as well as the fees imposed on domestic servants in Jordan. His statements were characterised with frankness and clarity, and we are quite satisfied to hear the prime minister announce that the interest of the general public should override all other considerations.

Al Dustour: Interesting, useful interview

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai spoke in a lengthy interview on Jordan Television Saturday night pointing out the major progress achieved in the economic sector, and the march towards prosperity. Mr. Rifai referred to Jordan's prestige on the Arab and international level and the credibility the country enjoys, thanks to the wise policies of King Hussein who has been able to steer the country towards progress. The prime minister expounded the government's economic measures over the past two years and said that they were aimed at stimulating the national economy and bringing back Jordan to the right course leading towards further prosperity. Citing figures and facts about the improvement in the national economy, the prime minister shed light on a number of issues of concern to the Jordanian citizens and their future. Mr. Rifai spoke at length about the general election, the municipal elections, fees and taxes, universities and public and private sector companies and pointed to the wisdom in the government's measures which, he said, are part of an overall plan to revive the national economy. In fact, the prime minister gave his viewers an interesting and very useful talk about matters of their concern; and the candid interview is bound to gain his government further support and backing from the Jordanian public.

Sawt Al Shaab: A sound course

DESPITE the obstacles impeding rapid movement towards prosperity Jordan has made big strides in reviving the national economy and improving the performance of the private sector. These facts, backed by figures presented to the public Saturday evening by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who described the government's measures over the past two years as steps leading the country towards real prosperity. Mr. Rifai's talk on Jordan Television was comprehensive and frank, giving particulars about the improvement in the balance of trade, an increase in exports and a decrease in imports. The government, he said, is determined to rationalise public spending, encourage investment and serve the interests of the largest sections of the public. The government he added does not seek cheap popularity at the expense of the general public's interest; and for this reason, the main task is to provide the most practical means for improving the economic situation for the Jordanian people at large, not favouring one faction at the expense of the others. Mr. Rifai's talk about unemployment and about the additional travel fees, the domestic servants and universities, helped to put many minds at rest and reassured the public of the sound course of the government's national and domestic policies.

The warm Canadian winter

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

MY itinerary to the West has taken me to Canada as well where I found even more snow than I had left in Switzerland. But the cold weather of Canada is deceiving as it hides the warmth and compassion that radiate across Canada from coast to coast and there the seemingly never-ending Canadian winter.

In Canada, I found two fundamental issues which seem to permeate life in Canada all over. They seem to even upset the questionable future of the party and government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney which is plagued by accusation of corruption and practicing personal favouritism. They also appear to overshadow all other mundane and bread and butter issues which Canada and Canadians are trying to winter through in the dire economic conditions prevailing across Canada now. These two issues are: 1) The call for the restoration of the death penalty which was abolished in Canada back in 1976, and 2) The floods of refugees from all corners of the world especially Latin America who seem to be swamping the frontiers of Canada's firm east to west.

It was most interesting to hear and become a silent participant in the ongoing debate in Canada between the proponents of the abolition of the death penalty who succeed in taking it away from Canadian criminal laws and their opponents who are riding high on the wave of conservatism which is sweeping through many parts of Canada and are now demanding the return of the capital punishment to the laws of Canada. The debate between them is ostensibly a local and provincial one, but in fact is international in dimensions as this issue is hotly debated worldwide. It would be a useful footnote to the reader of this subject to point out that international instruments and covenants are outright against capital punishment especially in cases of economic crimes. The Western world is solidly behind the call to abolish the death punishment. The USA practically stands alone among the Western alliance in keeping it in its laws.

U.S.-Israeli alliance: Who sets the rules?

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — The Israeli-U.S. alliance, based on mutual admiration, shared values and common strategic interests, is being corrupted by Israel's contempt for American sensitivities.

Israel paid an American to turn spy, staked first claim to Soviet Jews who preferred America over Israel and posted a military attaché in Washington whose record is both controversial and repugnant. If the relationship were a marriage, it would be heading toward the rocks.

Jonathan Jay Pollard was an Israeli spy. For that he was sentenced to life in prison. The documents he turned over to Israel were, by his own admission extremely sensitive. They included reconnaissance photos that reportedly enabled Israel to bomb Tunis — a near assassination.

To all this, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir offers a nonchalant shrug of the shoulders. At

the Washington breakfast, he reasonably enough, holds the United States accountable.

Intelligence information of that value, which was used at the highest levels of the Israeli government, is extremely hard to come by. Americans, who ask what their president knew and when he knew it, are entitled to ask the same question of the Israeli government.

In its own way, Israel provided an answer. Rather than punish those implicated in the Pollard case, it rewarded them. For instance, Colonel Avieli Sella, indicted in the United States for allegedly being Mr. Pollard's paymaster, was named to command Israel's second-largest air base.

To all this, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir offers a nonchalant shrug of the shoulders. At

The Canadian proponents of the death penalty put forth two arguments for its retention or rather its restoration: 1) The proposition that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to crime. 2) That the punishment per se is a just punishment that befits a person who takes another person's life unjustly.

The opponents of the death punishment point to the empirical evidence accumulated after much examination and investigation which revealed that there is hardly a link between the practice of the death penalty and crime rate. Reference is often made in this context to the comparative situations in the U.S. State of Michigan where the death penalty was abolished and the State of Illinois where the death penalty is preserved. The findings of these studies indicated that the death punishment did not in fact serve as a deterrent to crime. They also point out the proposition that justice mechanisms worldwide including in the most sophisticated countries are often faulty and are anything but perfectionist in administering justice. Even in the U.S., where law enforcement is aided and supported by high technology and an abundance of financial and human resources, the system of justice was never flawless and the U.S. records indicate that many innocent persons were erroneously hanged. They often make reference to the right to life which is well enshrined in international customary law especially in the human rights and humanitarian dimensions of it.

As I write these lines, the debate in Canada goes on and the vote on the issue in the Canadian parliament has yet to resolve the issue once again.

The other issue of refugees storming the frontiers of Canada and seeking freedom, liberty and an end to repressive life as well as economic opportunities is heartbreaking. The sight of waves and waves of humanity flooding the borders of Canada bleeds any heart. And while this human problem poses formidable hardships on the laws and economy of Canada, it nevertheless constitutes a

vote of confidence in the future of the country as a haven for liberty and an asylum from tyranny and a place for economic opportunity.

As I looked at and watched masses of people of all races, colours and creeds knocking at the doors of Canada and juxtaposed together in a new human form, I could only conclude that perhaps God the Almighty willed that way for all races and tongues to live together under one flag. The untold many hardships associated with the uprooting of peoples from their families and familiar environments to seek new life in a strange country are vivid testimony of the extent man is capable of enduring to better his life.

All these moving events were unfolding when the Canadian government decided formally to reject the credentials of General Amos Yaron, the Israeli military attaché in Ottawa, because of his complicity in the Sabra and Shatila massacres of 1982. In a way, Canada is serving notice on Israel that all is not forgotten and forgiven with regard to the massacres of Palestinians five years ago. It is also the Canadian way of reminding Israel that whereas it, i.e., Israel seeks and rightly so the Nazi officers guilty of committing acts of atrocities against Jews and other nationalities during World War II, the world has the right to hold Israel accountable for all time, and for ever, for similar atrocities which it had inflicted on the Palestinian and Lebanese people not in the distant past.

But, perhaps, the real moral of the Canadian gesture to Israel is also intended for the Arab World as well which seems to have forgotten before other nations and peoples of the world that crimes against humanity in Lebanon should never be forgiven, least of all by the Arab brothers and sisters of the massacred.

All in all, the trip to Canada has been most rewarding and thought provoking. It confirmed in my mind my previous hypotheses that the developing world can learn a lot more than technology from the Western world.

Brazil's economic crisis brings military out of barracks

By Susanna Hayward
The Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — Brazil's economic problems and a steady stream of strikes by unhappy workers have brought the dormant military out of its barracks.

Navy men and marines occupied ports across Brazil on March 7 to break a strike by 40,000 shipping and dock workers seeking higher wages.

On March 9, the army rolled out tanks and SWAT teams and took over 10 oil refineries to prevent a threatened strike by more than 50,000 workers, who also demanded salary increases.

Since handing over power two years ago, the military has been supportive of the government and has played a low-key role, rarely making its presence known. The recent activity, however, suggests it will become more involved.

There were no reports of violence in this month's incidents. Refinery workers voted to go on strike only if military troops remained on the scene, and by

March 12 the army had withdrawn from half the refineries. Later that day, troops returned to their positions, occupying nine of the refineries again without explanation. Meanwhile, the dockworkers strike continued.

The supreme labour tribunal has ruled strike action by either of the labour groups illegal.

President Jose Sarney, who in March 1985 became Brazil's first civilian president after 21 years of military rule, said the military action was a preventive measure and legal under the constitution.

Brazil's current constitution, which gives the military wide powers, was handed down in 1967 by the generals who overthrew the elected government of Joao Goulart in 1964. The charter states the military is responsible for national security.

A congress elected last November is sitting now in Brasilia as a constituent assembly to draw up a new charter, and the future role of the military in Brazil is to be debated.

In their so-called "democratic

revolution" of 1964, the military took power after about four years of economic troubles that had led to protest and strikes.

Before becoming president, Sarney was the leader of the military-backed Social Democratic Party and was the vice-president running mate of Tancredo Neves, a moderate who died before taking office.

The coupling of Neves, who was revered by large numbers of Brazilians, with Sarney, a military sympathiser and veteran politician, was regarded by the military as an ideal political marriage for the transition from dictatorship to democracy.

But the strikes have apparently

caused enough alarm to spur the military into action this month.

"The military is again putting its claws out. They are showing they are not just behind-the-scenes players," said David Fleischer, head of the political science department at the University of Brasilia. "They believe the strikes are orchestrated to cut off supplies and that this is Communist orchestrated to bring down the government."

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"We occupied all the refineries

of the country on superior orders

and with very clear objectives,"

said the army minister, Gen.

Leonidas Goncalves.

He added that the military intervention was requested by the

mines and energy ministry and

Petrobras, the state-owned oil

monopoly.

Petrobras

issued a statement

saying its main responsibility was

to keep the country supplied with

petroleum derivatives.

The flexing of the military's

muscle

has become more appa-

reant since Sarney's anti-inflationary economic plan failed late last year, bringing about runaway price increases and skyrocketing interest rates while wages remained low.

In December, tanks and troops were mobilised across the country to prevent violence during a nationwide general strike. Also in December, military police clashed with protesters at an anti-government demonstration in Brasilia that left about 100 people injured.

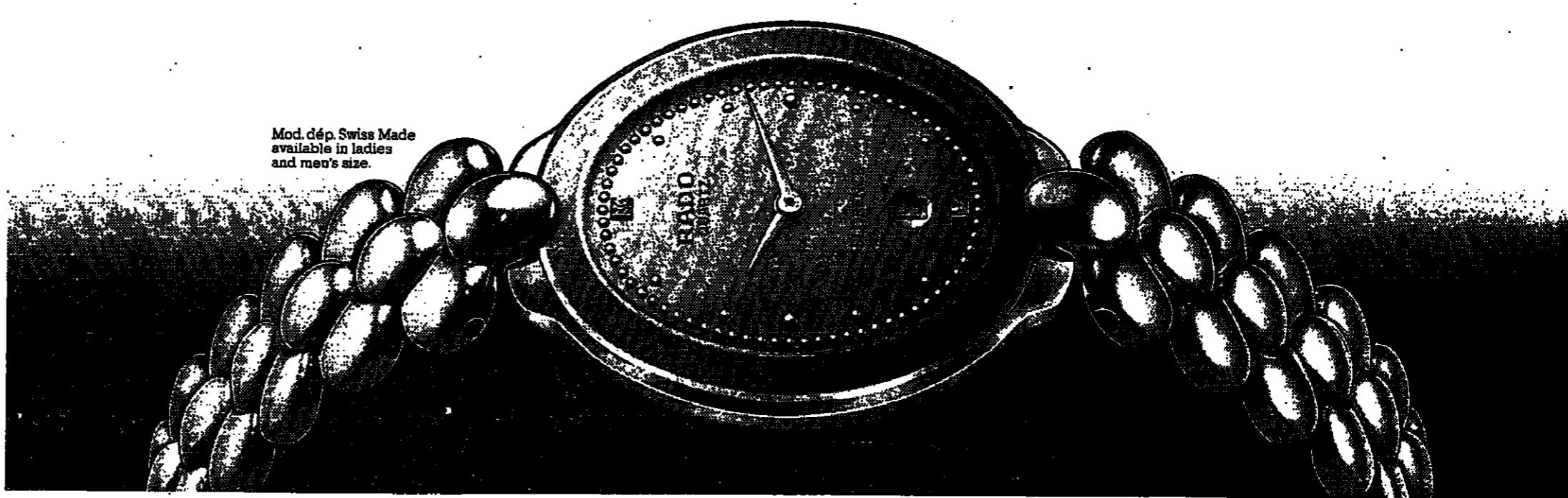
In Brazil's fledgling democracy, however, politics and economics go hand in hand. In the 10 months that his so-called Cruzado plan froze prices, Sarney was one of Brazil's most popular presidents in recent history.

Labour became restless as prices began soaring while salaries remained low.

Even Brazil's traditional land-owning elite staged two nationwide strikes in the past month to protest high interest rates and low prices for their agricultural products.

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Education turns South Korea into an industrialised nation

South Korean cars, computers and video cassette recorders are showing up in growing numbers throughout the world — no challenge yet to Japan but getting there, provided the nation's political and social systems don't explode. Some experts predict South Korea could make a major economic assault on world markets by the turn of the century.

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Chung Se-Yung, industrial tycoon, and Moon Kal-Eong, factory hand, have never met. But these two farmers' sons are partners in a success story that is transforming this Asian land into an economic miracle-worker.

Chung, blunt-spoken chairman of the giant Hyundai conglomerate, has his own idea of the secret behind South Korea's boom.

"It isn't low wages," he insists. "Education, that's the key to our success, and our people are willing to work hard. That's the key."

Moon is one of those hard workers. He earns \$1 an hour on the assembly line at Daewoo Motor Co. — low wages by any standard. But everything is relative, the 24-year-old auto-worker tells a visitor to his factory.

"This is better than trying to make a living from my father's rice paddy," he says. "Right now I'm saving almost all my pay. Someday, maybe I can even afford to buy one of these cars."

Shrewd traders, cheap wages, tireless workers, big savers — all have pushed South Korea to the top of everyone's most-likely-to-success list, in a pattern similar to that of postwar Japan. The statistics are startling:

— South Korea led the world last year in economic growth, according to preliminary figures. Its gross national product increased by 12.2 per cent.

— South Korea's foreign debt, about \$44 billion, is fourth-largest in the developing world. But, unlike others, this country is actually paying it off, early.

— For the first time, South Korean exports outweighed imports in 1986, paced by a \$7.4-billion surplus in U.S. trade. A South Korean car, the Hyundai Excel, hit the U.S. market last year, opening a new commercial frontier for the Koreans.

The U.S.-trained economists who guide and analyse South Korea's performance talk of becoming a fully developed industrialized nation — a member of the "Western" club — by the year 2000. Seoul takes a big step toward a world-class image next year by playing host to the 1988 summer Olympics.

But progress in this nation of 41 million people is often marked by paradox. Although growth is steady and opinion polls find South Koreans

confident about their future, widespread poverty persists — urban poverty that a former U.S. ambassador, speaking privately, described as a time bomb for the 1990s.

And political disaffection grows. Besides merchants and labourers, the South Korean system rests on generals, whose governments have long suppressed independent labour unions and played favourites among businessmen.

This system is a marriage between a dictatorial military machine and monopoly capital," said one Protestant churchman active in labour-organising efforts.

The churchman asked not to be identified, citing a law that makes one liable to imprisonment for making anti-government statements to a foreign journalist.

Whatever is behind the boom, its impact is unmistakable.

Seoul, a small walled city just 80 years old that was devastated in the seesaw fighting of the 1950-53 Korean war, has become one of the world's great metropolises, a high-energy sprawl of office towers, broad boulevards and 10 million people.

Where only one bridge crossed the Han river during the war, 18 now span it. Tall apartment blocks, some with homes for sale, fan out toward the horizon. Just west of Seoul, in Inchon, sprawls of industrial parks border the Yellow Sea.

Army batteries line the shore — a reminder that South Korea and Communist North Korea technically remain at war.

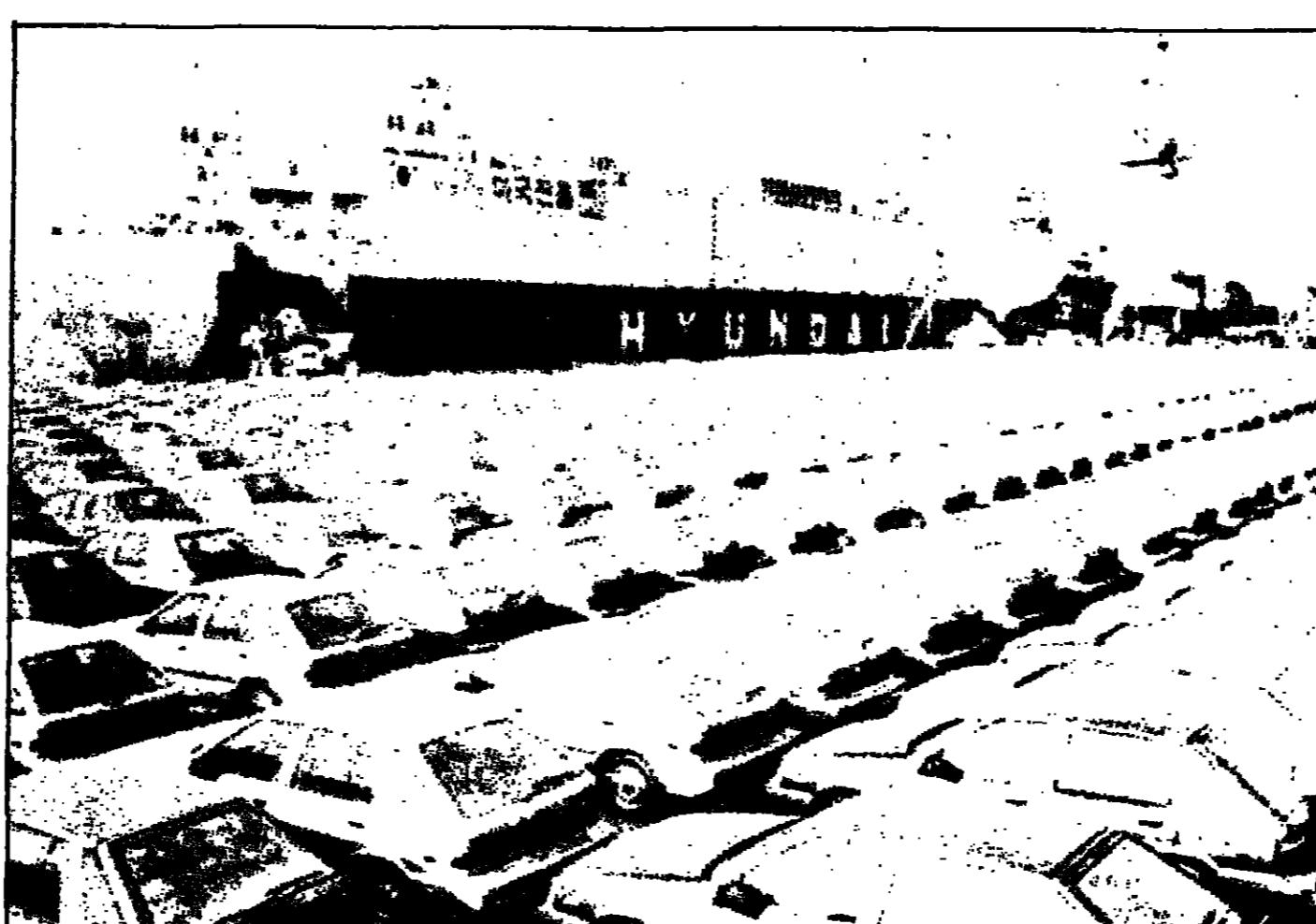
The army first took political control in South Korea in 1961 under Gen. Park Chung-Hee, and launched a highly centralised development programme.

In a land poor in natural resources and capital, the government channelled subsidies, low-cost loans and tax breaks to a few selected heavy industries. These businesses, usually family-owned, developed into conglomerates — "chaebol" in Korean — with interests in every sector of economic life.

One was the Chung family's Hyundai.

"Our economy is very immature," explained Chung Se-Yung, who in February took over the chairmanship of Hyundai Corp. from brother Chung-Ju-Yung, its founder. "The government helped big industries because they were more efficient than the small ones."

To reach Chung's eighth-floor



Korean passenger cars are being loaded on to a ship for export at Inchon's port. The nation's trade account reached its first trade surplus last year.

headquarters suite, overlooking Seoul's serene secret Garden Park, visitors pass through a parking lot filled with Hyundai autos, ride up Hyundai-manufactured elevators, and enter offices where secretaries use Hyundai telephones and young executives wear Hyundai-made jackets.

A \$14-billion-a-year corporation, Hyundai has 24 affiliates with 155,000 employees and no union, not even a company-sponsored one, as in other conglomerates.

"The conception that there must be unions is wrong. The point is how the workers are treated," Chung said in an interview.

Hyundai workers are paid more than the officially suggested monthly minimum of 100,000 Korean won, equivalent to \$120.

They can live in company-subsidised housing, and enjoy such other benefits as clothing allowances and free recreation facilities.

Labour activists claim, however, that one-third of South Korea's production workers earn less than 100,000 won a month.

And efforts at establishing independent unions are routinely blocked, sometimes in violent clashes between police and labour organisers.

"The whole apparatus of the government has been mobilised to support management against labour and the labour unions," a U.S. scholar of Korea, James Palais of the University of Washington, concluded in a recent study.

"We did our homework," said Chun's chief economic adviser, Sakong II.

They also have capitalised on what they call "the three blessings": Low oil prices and interest rates, which ease the financial drain on this oil-importing, heavily indebted nation, and the high value of the Japanese yen, which makes Japanese goods more expensive and South Korean electronics, textile and other exports more attractive priced.

The South Koreans have taken the world market by storm. Their exports, just \$17.5 billion in 1980, are expected to top \$40 billion this year.

Now they must watch over their shoulders for up-and-coming competitors. Wages may be low, but they are lower still in China and India. South Korea must adjust, said Sakong.

"Market forces are moving our economy into more and more skill-intensive, instead of labour-intensive areas," he said. The economy also must be

decentralised, the presidential adviser said. The government is trying to encourage formation of more small and medium-size companies to serve as parts suppliers to the big manufacturers.

The pressure to create new and better jobs remains high. The labour force grows by almost a half-million people a year. Migration continues from the farms, and the country has a surplus of college graduates with no work.

The campuses, meanwhile, have become the flashpoint of protest against the authoritarian government.

President Chun is scheduled to step down in February next year. Before then, his Democratic Justice Party and the main opposition, the New Korea Democratic Party, will try to reach a compromise on a new democratic constitution.

If they fail, it could touch off a political firestorm. But many South Koreans believe their countrymen, caught up in their economic "miracle," will reject any invitation to upheaval.

"Don't underestimate the power of the Korean middle class, and of those who think they are middle class," said one leading political scientist. "They're for stability."

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Randa Habib's Corner

Tourist attractions

NOT counting the increase in entry and exit fees imposed on foreign travellers, tourists travelling to our country are in for a lot of trouble.

A foreigner visiting Amman for the first time, has all my sympathy. First of all, if he was not one of those "taxi-fans" then bless his soul if he or she could find his/her way in Amman. There is a map of the city, but it is useless, disinformative and outdated. And with all the detours an unguided tourist in Amman would find himself in a maze.

Tourists who decide to visit Petra for example are told by travel agencies that for JD 14, they could travel to Petra, ride a horse into the old city and have lunch. The lunch turns out to be a soup and a cup of tea, and the horse ride would cost an extra JD 1.5. "in order to get a good horse."

Tourists who want to venture to the West Bank are in for a lot of hassles. To get permission to travel across the river a tourist has to obtain a pass from the Ministry of Interior, which for the agony of everyone concerned is almost inaccessible from all directions except one.

The problem that ordinary tourists face is the paper work involved. "Do you have a photocopy of your passport?" There is no way to have a photocopy made there. A tourist would simply have to leave the ministry, take a taxi to Jabal Al Hussein and have a photocopy made there. The ministry does not sell revenue stamps, and most probably a tourist won't think of buying stamps in advance. So, another trip to Jabal Al Hussein is, in most instances, inevitable.

Sometimes one hears officials talking of the country's touristic potential and one wonders, what are we doing to attract tourism? In fact the question should be, why do we put so much effort into giving tourists a hard time?

Tiny South Pacific nation has nowhere to go

By Richard Bill
The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — The tiny South Pacific nation of Nauru, one of the world's smallest and richest countries, is seeking \$2 billion to landscape the moonscape left by 81 years of phosphate mining.

Nauru, 4,000 kilometres north of Sydney, blames five former colonial powers — Australia, Britain, Japan, New Zealand and West Germany — for the devastation of the 22 square-kilometre island.

"Australia should be addressing our needs," he said recently in a rare interview with an Australian correspondent. "We are not all satisfied with their response and they know it. They have claimed they have no responsibility. But they do, and that's that."

But Australian officials, speaking on condition they would not be identified, have said their country will not provide the aid requested by Derobert.

One official said Nauru had allowed itself to become dependent on phosphate to the extent that all traditional farming and fishing ended and all foodstuffs and goods are imported.

Officials say traditional staples like fresh fish and tropical fruits have been replaced by tinned meat, polished rice, white sugar and Chinese take-out food. Nauru has the world's highest incidence of diabetes, and major health problems caused by obesity and alcoholism, according to health surveys.

For years, the Nauru government has scouted the South Pacific and the Caribbean for a new island on which to resettle the population. Australia once offered an island off the cost of its state of Queensland, but refused Derobert's demand for autonomy.

Nauru last month ordered a three-man commission to study the country's future viability. Panel chairman Christopher Weeramantry is expected to issue a report by the end of the year.

An Australian who recently visited the country said indolence and boredom had set in among the islanders because they had little to do and nowhere to go.

Secretary in Iran-contra affair wants no publicity

By Lee Byrd
The Associated Press

sing, a friend and director of the National Defence Council Foundation.

Still, the intriguing mix of Ms. Hall's association with North, her stunning, blonde-haired, blue-eyed beauty and trendy name have made her a target of immigrants. A New York escort service, without permission, put her picture on the cover of a brochure.

But according to friends of both Ms. Hall and Arturo Cruz Jr., the pair rarely discussed politics.

They went to movies together,

ate at Thai and Chinese restaurants, and, on all Sundays,

would go to a friend's apartment to watch Redskins football games over pizza and beer.

The younger Cruz says, "more than liberal or conservative, she is traditional. This is the kind of woman who always worked ... somebody who always grew up believing you have to earn what you have."

According to the Washington Post, North disapproved of the relationship, but Ms. Hall apparently ignored her boss on that score. Still, the pair eventually broke up, which Cruz attributes more to a clash between two strong personalities than to politics.

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Fawn Hall

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Finland's Alen races to 5th Portuguese Motor Rally win

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Finland's Markku Alen won the Portuguese Motor Rally for the fifth time but his feat was partly overshadowed by a crash during the race which killed a young spectator.

Alen, driving a Lancia Delta, led the 2,087 kilometre race almost from the start, holding off a fierce and persistent challenge from Frenchman Jean Ragnotti in a Renault Turbo.

The Finn had an advantage of less than three minutes at the end, Ragnotti having several times come close to dislodging him from the lead.

"It was a very hard and difficult race," Alen said. "I am very pleased with my team."

Alen's win over the 37 mixed gravel and asphalt special stages put him in second place in the World Championship after three rounds, seven points behind reigning champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland who leads with 37 points.

East Germany's Witt wins gold in women's skating

CINCINNATI (AP) — East Germany's Katarina Witt returned in style to the throne as the queen of ice skating.

Witt staged a dazzling freestyle programme to music from "West Side Story" to win the gold medal at the World Figure Skating Championships.

Witt, the 1984 Olympic champion, won her third world title with a perfect long programme that featured five triple jumps. She received a 6.0 from the East German judge and was first on seven of the nine judges' cards.

"It was the best I have skated," the 22-year-old Witt said after coming back from an unusually poor start — a fifth-place finish in the compulsories, worth 30 per cent of the overall score. "I tried three different jumps and that's why it was best. And also the artistic impression."

"I lost the title because I fell in the short programme last year. I trained very hard for this and it was my best performance. The music was good, the audience was very good."

Witt, who also won the short programme, worth 20 per cent, was the last skater in the freestyle, which is worth 50 per cent of the total score. She followed Thomas, who hit four of her five triples and, although skating



Markku Alen

Kankkunen, also driving a Lancia Delta, came fourth overall, three behind Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson in a VW Golf and more than 11 minutes behind his winning compatriot Alen.

It was an impressive fifth victory for Alen on Saturday but a fatal crash Friday cast a shadow over an otherwise uneven race.

The crash, the second fatal accident in the Portuguese event in two years, happened when a Toyota Corolla driven by Portugal's Joaquin Guedes came off the road at a bend during a mountain stage, killing one person and injuring about a dozen.

Organisers had pleaded with spectators this year to keep well back from the rally course following

Lloyd, Turnbull win doubles championship

MARCO ISLAND, Florida (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd and Wendy Turnbull beat Lori McNeil and Bettina Bunge in the final round of the \$400,000 Women's Team Championship doubles tournament at Marco Island, Florida.

The 6-1, 7-5 victory earned the second-seeded team of Lloyd and Turnbull \$21,625.

McNeil and her West German partner broke Lloyd early in the second set but McNeil, serving for the set at 5-3, could not hold.

"I just said, 'the girl is amazing,'" Thomas said. "She is just as tough going after you as before you."

Kadavy's captivating routine and poor performances by Kira Ivanova of the Soviet Union and Elizabeth Manley of Canada lifted her from fifth to third. She was eighth last year's world and barely made the American team for this event, sneaking into third place at the U.S. Championships when Tiffany Chin couldn't complete a triple jump in her long programme.

"I took the programme step by step, each jump and spin," Kadavy said. "I am thrilled at this moment. I've had a lot of ups and downs this year. I'm glad it finished on an up."

Organisers said the first of the planes were expected to land at Singapore late Sunday. The planes will leave Singapore on Wednesday for Bombay, India; Amman, Jordan; and Rome. They are scheduled to reach Paris on March 27.

Peking-Paris race leaves Singapore

HONG KONG (AP) — The Peking-Paris leg of an event billed as the world's longest air competition resumed Sunday with 20 planes taking off from Hong Kong's Kai Tak International Airport for Singapore, airport officials said.

The planes flew into this British colony, one of the mandatory stopovers, Thursday from Canton in southern China.

Organisers said the first of the planes were expected to land at Singapore late Sunday.

The planes will leave Singapore on Wednesday for Bombay, India; Amman, Jordan; and Rome. They are scheduled to reach Paris on March 27.

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The Royal Danish Consulate General is glad to announce the forthcoming arrival of a Danish Trade, Industrial and Agricultural Mission between 4/10 April 1987. The delegates, under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federation of Danish Industries, the Danish Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) and the Danish Dairy Board, will be holding a workshop at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel on Wednesday 8th April from 08:30 to 12:30 and will be happy to meet any interested Jordanian businessmen, in which case, please advise Danish Commercial Attaché, Mr. Hans Friis at telephone 677891.

The 30 delegates will comprise members of leading export companies specialised in the following fields: Wind turbines, water treatment and environmental protection, manufacturers of decorative partitions and non-domestic furniture for institutions and laboratories, hatchery equipment, pumps and electric motors, transformers, industrial cleaning equipment, animal feed, food processing and packaging, turn-key dairies, refrigeration and cold stores, slaughter-houses, cement factories, tourist operators, commercial and credit banks representatives, and also a delegate in import of fruits and vegetables to Denmark and to the Scandinavian countries.

For further information about the delegates and the companies they represent, please contact:
The Royal Danish Commercial Office
Majali Building
Abdul Hamid Sharaf Street
Shmeisani
P.O. Box 222, Amman, Tel. 677891 Tlx. 21212 Mr. Hans Henrik Friis

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RAW DEAL

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Davis Cup roundup

Australia, Mexico clinch 1st round ties

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Wally Masur and Pat Cash each scored singles victories Sunday as defending champion Australia claimed a 4-1 victory over Yugoslavia in the Davis Cup World Group first round competition.

Masur beat Brane Oresar 8-6

6-2, 6-1, in the first "reverse singles" to give Australia an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

Cash then downed Slobodan

Zivojinovic 6-8, 7-5, 6-0.

The Aussies, who defeated

Sweden in the Davis Cup final

in Melbourne last December, now face Mexico in the second round of this year's competition.

In Asuncion, Paraguay, the

U.S. doubles team of Robert

Seguso and Ken Flach came from

two sets down to win a stirring

five-set, four-hour match over

Paraguay's Victor Pecci and

Francisco Gonzalez to give the

United States a 2-1 lead.

The match was marred by

several disturbances between a

raucous crowd of 3,000 and the

two U.S. players. Fans mimicking

cats and dogs caused Flach to

double-fault four times, twice on

set points, to put the U.S. team

down two sets to none.

But Flach and Seguso steadied

themselves to quiet the crowd

and win 5-7, 9-11, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4.

Only the 16 nations in the

World Group actually compete

for the cup. Countries in zonal

action are playing for spots in the

World Group for 1988.

After Saturday's matches in

other World Group matches, it

was Sweden 2, Italy 1; West

Germany 2, Spain 1; France 3,

South Korea 0; Mexico 3, Britain

0; and Israel 2, Czechoslovakia 1.

In Madrid, Milosav

Medir and Tomas Smid kept

Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup

hopes alive by defeating Israel's

Amos Mandorf and Shlomo

Glickman 6-2, 4-6, 8-6, 8-6.

Israel still leads the best-of-five-

matches international team com-

petition after surprisingly sweep-

ing the first-day singles.

Mexico 3, Britain 0

In New Delhi, Argentina took

Wilander and Anders Jarryd each scored singles victories Sunday as defending champion Australia claimed a 4-1 victory over Yugoslavia in the Davis Cup World Group first round competition.

"It was a disastrous match, a horrendous spectacle," lamented Italian team captain Adriano Panatta afterward, publicly dressing down his two charges. "I feel sorry for the public."

West Germany 2, Spain 1

Boris Becker and Eric Jelen needed two hours, 28 minutes to defeat Emilio Sanchez and Sergio Casal 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and give West Germany a 2-1 lead over Spain in their first-round encounter at Barcelona.

Earlier in the day, Casal com-

pleted a 6-4, 6-8, 7-9, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Jelen. The match had been halted by darkness Friday with the score tied 3-3 in the

third set.

Israel 2, Czechoslovakia 1

In Madrid, Milosav Medir and Tomas Smid kept Czechoslovakia's Davis Cup hopes alive by defeating Israel's Amos Mandorf and Shlomo Glickman 6-2, 4-6, 8-6, 8-6. Israel still leads the best-of-five-

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Bishara

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Haim Salim and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar opened strong at a high value but dealers were still cautious on whether to sell the dollar because they feared the intervention of central banks.

The dollar traded in a very narrow range without interest from dealers to make big profits. It traded between 0.34145-0.3431 fils to the JD. Decisions taken by the Group of Five to stabilise the dollar were behind this very narrow trading range of the dollar.

Profit-taking on the European currencies took the pound sterling against the Deutschmark (D.M.) and Swiss franc (S.F.) from 3.00 and 2.50 respectively to 2.90 and 2.40. The main reason behind the dealers' trading in the European currencies was the uninteresting dollar ranges.

Charts indicate that the dollar is going to fall this week to the levels on the European currencies, though not dangerous at the \$1.80/D.M. and \$1.50/S.F. levels that could bring out central bank intervention.

The expected ranges for this week are 0.338-0.342 fils. The pound sterling was still

the sole gainer, in the currency market.

Sterling pushed higher against the European currencies to reach 0.5550 fils on the JD. Higher oil prices and higher interest rate were behind this big push on the currency. Profit-taking on the currency took it back to 0.5450 fils.

The D.M./S.F. moved in a mixed range trading between D.M. 0.175-0.180 and S.F. between 0.215-0.220 fils.

The Lebanese lira (L.L.) traded with a very narrow range because of the uncertainty around the military situation existing in the Lebanon. L.L. traded between (300-312) L.L./JD. The Syrian lira traded between (70-60) S.L./JD and the Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.2150 to 1.2250 on the JD. The Egyptian pound traded between 0.175-0.185 fils and the Iraqi dinar between 0.2400-0.2800 fils.

Metals traded in a narrow range because of the uncertainty on the dollar market. Gold traded between \$401.50- \$410 an ounce and silver traded between \$5.52- \$6.66 an ounce. Charts still indicate that metals should try the lower levels and that is gold must stay \$397 before moving to \$416.

Gold prices in Amman based on the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan Jewellery Store Company are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 3.950 - JD 3.850

Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.750 - JD 3.556

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taiwan to relax curbs on more imports

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is to relax import controls on more foreign goods, a government spokesman said last week. The move was to allow greater access to Taiwan markets by overseas trading partners, especially the United States, an official of the Council for Economic Planning and Development told Reuters. Import curbs on about 400 foreign goods, including stationery and books, would soon be relaxed, he said. Taiwan announced it would ease curbs on some 600 farming and industrial products last month. The official said the moves were intended to balance trade between Taiwan and the United States and other trading partners. Taiwan's trade surplus reached a record \$15.6 billion last year, up from \$10.62 billion in 1985. In January, Taiwan cut import tariffs on some 1,700 foreign products by up to 50 per cent.

IDB to lend Pakistan \$20 million

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$20 million loan to Pakistan to finance palms of imports from a member country. The credit brings total IDB assistance to Pakistan over the past seven months to \$80 million.

10,000 Hungarians will lose their jobs

BUDAPEST (R) — Ten thousand Hungarian iron and steelworkers will lose their jobs over the next two years in a major restructuring of the sector, Deputy Industry Minister Arpad Voerres said in a newspaper interview. Mr. Voerres told the weekly Vasarnapi Hirket production and energy costs must be cut "drastically" and plants modernised. "The future of the industry must be based on new competitive technologies and the production of goods that meet world market requirements," he said. Several plants have already been closed, and two others are being updated to use higher-quality ore from Sweden and India.

Rabat secures \$126m loans

PARIS (R) — Morocco stands to get more than 100 million Special Drawing Rights (\$126 million) in 1987, following a three-day meeting of World Bank donors, Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammad Berrada said last week.

It added the group saw as "realistic" Morocco's medium-term goal of restoring creditworthiness on financial markets.

Morocco's foreign debt currently totals \$14 billion, Mr. Berrada said, adding that Morocco intended to begin paying off its debts instead of continuing to reschedule them.

A Moroccan delegation led by Mr. Berrada reached an agreement here earlier with \$900 million of debt.

Late last year Morocco won agreement to reschedule \$1.8 billion commercial bank debt.

Hearst buys Houston

Chronicle for \$400m

HOUSTON (R) — In one of the highest priced newspaper acquisitions in U.S. history, the Hearst Corp. announced last week it is purchasing the Houston Chronicle from Houston Endowment Inc. for \$400 million. The Houston Endowment is selling the paper to comply with federal tax laws requiring charitable institutions to divest themselves of profit-making subsidiaries by 1989.

The Chronicle, with a circulation of more than 425,000, is in heated competition with the Houston Post, owned by the Toronto Sun Publishing Co. since 1983. The Houston Post trails with a daily circulation of about 316,000.

Founded in 1909 by financier

Jesse Jones, the Chronicle gives Hearst its biggest newspaper holding in Texas. The California-based publisher already owns newspapers in San Antonio, Beaumont and Laredo, Texas.

Hearst also owns, among others, the San Francisco Examiner, Los Angeles Herald Examiner and Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Other recent major newspaper acquisitions include the Louisville (Kentucky) Courier-Journal and Times, sold for \$300 million to Gannett Co. in 1986, and package of media properties including the Baltimore Sun sold for \$600 million to Times Mirror Co.

Top Saudi businessmen to discuss impediments facing private sector

ABHA, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi business leaders assembled Sunday for a conference aimed at thrashing out problems facing the private sector of the kingdom's oil-dependent economy.

The meeting of some 500 top businessmen from across Saudi Arabia comes at a time of guarded optimism in industry and commerce following the OPEC

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business

Jenkins victory in Oxford gives Alliance fresh boost

OXFORD, England (R) — Britain's centrist Alliance has added to a string of recent successes with the election of Roy Jenkins, a founder of the Social Democrats, to the prestige-laden office of Chancellor of Oxford University.

The post, made vacant by the death last December of former Conservative Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, is unpaid and largely ceremonial.

But with two respected elder statesmen of British politics vying for the crown, the four-way contest had developed into a keenly watched show of political rivalry.

Jenkins' victory Saturday over another former Conservative prime minister, Edward Heath, was a further feather in the cap of the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance.

The Alliance scored overwhelming success in two parliamentary by-elections during the past two weeks, the latest on Friday on Cornwall, south west England.

"One is immensely pleased," said Mr. Jenkins on hearing that he had been voted into the 75-year-old Oxford office.

A former Labour Party minister and president of the European

Community's Executive Commission, Mr. Jenkins told reporters: "Obviously one feels relief and pleasure and a sense of the great honour of winning the job."

In what is widely expected to be an election year, his success in capturing the post, traditionally a fiefdom of the ruling Conservative Party, was seen as an indication of the way political opinion is running in the groves of academe.

In the last 150 years only one non-Tory — the Liberal Lord Grey — has held the post.

Mr. Jenkins' triumph could help the Alliance maintain a recent jump in its popularity and inject an unpredictable element into Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's election calculations.

Widespread media interest in the outcome helped to swell the voting figures. More than 7,000 Oxford graduates filed past the ballot box in Oxford's 17th century Convocation House, twice the number who voted in 1960

when the election was last held. Worried about the consequences, the Conservative Party machine swung into action to encourage talk that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is on the brink of calling a general election, possibly in June.

The poll gives the Conservatives a rating of 41 per cent against 32 per cent for Labour and 25 per cent for the Alliance — enough to give Mrs. Thatcher an overall majority of 46 seats at the 650-seat House of Commons.

The poll, which follows a survey by Marplan last week which gave the Conservatives a six-point lead over Labour, shows how dramatically the fortunes of Britain's two largest parties have changed over the past six months.

As recently as September, Labour was still ahead in opinion polls and was looking forward to forming Britain's next government. Since then it has been beset by inner wrangling and its popularity among Britain's voters has tumbled.

Meanwhile Conservatives have moved into a nine-point lead over the main opposition Labour Party, their biggest lead for two years, according to an opinion poll published in the Sunday Times.

The Mori Poll's findings come

as the latest in a series of setbacks for Labour and are bound to encourage talk that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is on the brink of calling a general election, possibly in June.

Morale among Labour politicians slumped further last month when the party lost a key by-election in Greenwich, south London — a seat which Labour had held for 50 years.

The Mori Poll's findings come

U.S. vice president cites need for covert actions

NASHUA, N.H. (R) — Vice President George Bush has strongly defended covert intelligence activities as a "useful foreign policy option" and called for support of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which he once headed.

Addressing Republican Party activists, Mr. Bush chose to make a statesmanlike foreign policy speech rather than a political appeal in an apparent bid to distinguish himself from other Republicans presidential hopefuls who have addressed the group over the past two days.

"Covert action gives us the ability to help our friends or confuse our adversaries... It provides us with a useful foreign policy option that is somewhere between diplomacy on the one hand and sending in the Marines on the other," said the vice president, a former CIA director.

"The world is not a sunlit meadow. The world is not the way we want it to be. It's the way it is. There are dangers out there that must be addressed. Covert action is sometimes the means to

do it," he said.

Mr. Bush said the Iran arms scandal was partly due to the exclusion of the intelligence agency from the operation.

The CIA has been criticised for its role in the arms sale and the subsequent diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Mr. Bush said it was time for political leaders to be "outspoken and out front in our support for the CIA."

He also said lie detector tests might be necessary in certain circumstances to detect the source of leaks that jeopardise U.S. intelligence activities.

The vice president, the current front-runner for the Republican Party's 1988 presidential nomination, chose not to respond to other potential candidates who accused him of arrogance for refusing to share a platform with them.

Mr. Bush also took no notice of New York congressman Jack Kemp's demand that Mr. Bush announce his support for the early deployment of the "Star Wars" missile defense system.

Moi ends visit to U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has left after a visit to the United States during which his hosts expressed concern at alleged human rights abuses in his country.

Mr. Moi was originally scheduled to meet U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York Saturday but cancelled the meeting earlier this week.

"No explanation was given," a U.N. spokesman said Saturday when asked why the meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar was called off.

Mr. Moi, who met President Reagan on Thursday during his week-long visit, left Washington for London after a brief departure ceremony attended by Secretary of State George Shultz.

On Friday the State Department issued a statement expressing concern about new allegations of police torture in Kenya and urging Mr. Moi's government to

investigate.

The statement, considered unusual because it was made while Mr. Moi was in the country on an official visit, came in response to a Washington Post story which said Kenyan police had tortured dozens of political dissidents over the last year to force confessions.

The newspaper, in another story Saturday, said a prominent Nairobi lawyer who made charges of police torture had been arrested and charged with membership of Mwakenya, a secret organisation opposed to Mr. Moi's government.

A senior administration official said Mr. Reagan had told Mr. Moi it was important that Kenya, a nation of almost 20 million, maintain high standards on human rights.

The country has a pro-Western parliamentary democracy and a reputation as safe for the tourists who flock to see its wildlife.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOHEN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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FAST OR SLOW ARRIVAL?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K 4
VA 10 7 5 2
OK
♦ Q J 5 2

WEST
♦ 10 9 8 7 5 3 2 ♦ A Q
V Q 9 8 3
OK
♦ 8

EAST
♦ 6
V Void
OK
♦ A Q J 9 8 4 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 3

SOUTH
♦ 6
V Void
OK
♦ A Q J 9 8 4 3 2
♦ 9 7 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West

1 V 1 NT 2 0 4 V

Pass 4 ♦ 5 0 Pass

Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♦

When the Vanderbilt Team of Four Championship final ended, two members of the winning team were not aware of the result. Floridians Bill Root and Richard Pavlicek were on their way to Portland, Ore., airport to take a red-eye flight back to their home state so that they could fulfill teaching commitments. It took a phone call from the airport to find out that they had added another major national title to their already impressive list of triumphs.

On this deal from the final, Root and Pavlicek extracted the maximum penalty when an opponent tried to play a wasting game. After Root overcalled one no trump, South elected to make a quiet bid of two diamonds. Pavlicek's jump to four hearts was a transfer to spades, and when Root duly overcalled South decided that he did not want to defend. He tried five diamonds, and Root's double ended the auction.

Pavlicek led his singleton club. Root cashed the king and ace, then returned the ten for his partner to ruff. Back came a spade to the ace, and Root was sadly disappointed when his partner could not ruff an other club. Still, that was 300 points for down two.

In the other room, where Edgar Kaplan and Norman Kay held the North-South cards, the auction also started with a one heart opening bid and a one no trump overcall. Kay, however, chose to bid an immediate five diamonds, and that shut West out of the bidding. Now East was not sure whose hand it was, so he elected to pass.

In defending the hand East-West, allowed a trick to get away. One undoubled meant only 50 points for their side, so the Kaplan team gained 260 points, which translates to 6 International Match Points, on the deal.

Madagascar riots reportedly aimed at toppling government

ANTANANARIVO (R) — A minority party in Madagascar's ruling left-wing coalition has said recent race riots in the country were part of a campaign to bring down the government.

Richard Andriamananjato, leader of the pro-Soviet Independence Congress Party (AFKM-KDRSM), linked the riots against the Indo-Pakistani "Karana" business community to five months of student unrest in the universities.

At a public meeting Saturday he warned that unidentified foreign forces were preparing to enter Madagascar as part of a conspiracy to topple the military-led government of President Didier Ratsiraka.

Monina Ma Kivimbo (Madagascar for the Malagasy) party of veteran nationalist leader Monina Jaona.

Monina Ma Kivimbo strongly opposes the Ratsiraka government.

Everything was orchestrated to try to overthrow the regime in power, using different methods such as the present crisis in the university, the anti-Karana riots, and the manipulation of various notions of race, caste and religion," Mr. Andriamananjato said.

He did not name the forces said to be conspiring against the government but was apparently referring to the extreme left-wing Monina Ma Kivimbo (Madagascar for the Malagasy) party of veteran nationalist leader Monina Jaona.

Monina Ma Kivimbo strongly opposes the Ratsiraka government.

25 killed in Indian train sabotage

MADRAS, India (R) — A speeding express train plunged into a dry river bed in southern India Sunday after the track had been blown up, killing up to 25 people, and senior railway official said it was a clear case of sabotage.

A railway spokesman told Reuters the engine and eight coaches of the Rockfort Express went off the rails 60 kilometres from Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu state about five a.m. (2330 GMT) Saturday.

Officials said at least 16 people were killed and 60 injured. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, quoting unofficial sources, said as many as 25 people were killed and 150 injured in the incident at Maradavai Bridge.

A police press statement said authorities had uncovered vital

clues about the incident and expected to make arrests in the next few days.

PTI quoted K.V. Balakrishnan, Southern Railway general manager and a passenger on the train, as saying the derailment was a clear case of sabotage. He did not say who was responsible but added that two rails had been removed at the site of the tragedy.

The railway spokesman said at least 150 metres of track were destroyed in an explosion and added that a live explosive device and some wires were found nearby.

There has been sporadic political violence recently between rival political parties in Tamil Nadu, India's southernmost state.

Soviet crewmen rescued from ship off U.S. coast

BOSTON (R) — All 37 crewmen were rescued by U.S. coast helicopters after a Soviet cargo ship began listing sharply in heavy seas off the U.S. east coast, a Coast Guard spokesman reported.

The spokesman said Saturday it was believed the 6,023-tonne Komsonoleti Kirogizki ran into trouble when its cargo suddenly shifted in five to six-metre seas driven by winds up to 80 kilometres per hour.

Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Richard Griggs said the ship, which sails out of Leningrad, was "listing 45 degrees with waves

breaking over the bridge" as three helicopters from the Cape Cod Air Station hoisted the crewmen to safety.

No injuries were reported. The ship was left abandoned 320 kilometres south of Cape Cod. The Soviet seamen were taken to Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The ship had left Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was headed for Cuba with 10,292 tonnes of flour aboard, the Coast Guard said.

The Baltic Shipping Company, which owns the vessel, will be responsible for attempting any salvage operation, it said.

U.S. pilot says he was not killed in downed plane

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pilot Fred Galitsatos says officials erroneously identified him as having been killed in the downing of a cargo plane over Honduras last week, a published report said Saturday.

"I'm not dead," Galitsatos said after he watched a broadcast Thursday identifying him as among those killed when a DC-3 was shot down, the Washington Post said.

The plane was shot down by Honduran combat jet Monday night. Honduran military officials said the dead included the plane's American pilot, Joseph Bernard Mason of Miami Springs, Florida, and all three Guatemalan crew

members.

Officials in Guatemala City, who said the plane had left there Monday morning with a flight plan for El Estor about 160 kilometres north east, identified Galitsatos as the co-pilot.

Galitsatos, of Dania, Florida, said he flew the plane about a month ago from Fort Lauderdale International Airport to Guatemala City, where he left the plane. He returned to Florida the next day with his co-pilot, the Post said.

The plane was shot down by Honduran combat jet Monday night. Honduran military officials said the dead included the plane's American pilot, Joseph Bernard Mason of Miami Springs, Florida, and all three Guatemalan crew

members.

His remarks contrasted sharply with the public assessments of Indonesia's top military commanders, Armed Forces Chief General Benny Mardani and Army Chief General Try Sutrisno.

Gen. Try said recently he was not aware of any group wishing to disrupt the ballot, while Gen. Mardani said Gen. Setijana's warnings of an extremist threat did not imply that the security situation had deteriorated.

He said the warnings were only an appeal for vigilance ahead of the polls.

President Subarto, who marked 21 years in power this week, crushed Communism shortly after the now-banned Communist party was blamed for an abortive coup attempt in Indonesia in 1965.

Soviet leadership disgraces former Kazakh leader

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's new leadership, by approving the disgrace of a long-serving former member of the ruling politburo, has signalled that its drive against corruption should not affect China's economic reforms or intellectuals outside the party.

Mr. Kurnayev, a close aide to Leonid Brezhnev until the late president's death in 1982, faced expulsion from the party.

Most Western analysts agree that the demonstrators were motivated by nationalism but were not protesting specifically in favour of Mr. Kurnayev, whose rule became a byword among many Kazakhs for high-handedness and corruption.

The Kazakh leader last December was replaced by an ethnic Russian. The move provoked student riots in Alma-Ata, the Kazakh capital, in which two people died and 200 were injured, according to official accounts.

Most Western analysts agree that the demonstrators were motivated by nationalism but were not protesting specifically in favour of Mr. Kurnayev, whose rule became a byword among many Kazakhs for high-handedness and corruption.

Mr. Kurnayev was removed from the politburo last January, following in the footsteps of other Brezhnev aides such as the former Moscow city party chief, Viktor Grishin, and former Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov.

The chief Brezhnev associate left on the politburo is Ukrainian party leader Vladimir Shcherbitsky, who has held on to his post despite mounting signs of isolation.

It would also mark a significant step forward in the drive, personally conducted by Mr. Gor-

COLUMNS 7 & 8

International Book Fair opens in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Some 500 publishers, including 150 from abroad, are taking part in a 10-day International Book Fair which opened in Baghdad Sunday. Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend the fair, organised by Iraq's National Publishing House for Distribution, Advertising and Culture.

3 held for drug smuggling in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Three Gulf citizens have been arrested in Ras Al Khaimah emirate for trying to smuggle a half kilo of heroin to a neighbouring Gulf state, a senior police officer said. Major Abdulla Abu Zaid, head of the emirate's Investigation Department, said they hid the heroin inside their bodies. He declined to give their nationalities.

Flood of work slows justice in Dhaka